



COMPETITION TIME Festival of FUN!

THE 10th Out of the Box festival is nearly here and it promises to be 10 times better than you could imagine!

From June 8-14, incorporating the Queens Birthday long weekend, South Bank's Cultural Centre will make way for a jam-packed week of performances, workshops, exhibitions and art events for youngsters who like to create, laugh, have fun and be entertained.

There will be lots to do and see and something for about everyone.

So what are some of the top things on offer this year?

- *Pirates*, a circus-style performance by the Flying Fruit Circus.
- *Amococo*, an awesome walk-through inflatable sculpture full of colour and light.
- The Instant Orchestra workshop.

learn to play an angklung (percussion instrument) along with other children to create a fantastic sound

● Outside the Box, amazing performances and entertainment that happens at random places around the Cultural Centre precinct.

● *Mr McGee and the Biting Flea*, performed by the Patch Theatre Company.

● Lemony Snicket's *The Composer is Dead*, performed by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra

Why not head to Brisbane's South Bank this June 8-14 to join the celebrations?

Check out the details below and see how you can win your way to Out of the Box.

Out of the Box, QPAC's festival is suitable for children 8 years and under

When June 8-14 **Where** Cultural Centre, South Bank

Outside of the Box free outdoor entertainment

Trails and Activities free **Performances** Children \$18; Adults \$22

Workshops Children \$16 **Amococo** \$8.50

For more information and bookings, head to www.outoftheboxfestival.com.au





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 General News
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COOL: Three-year-old Oli Anderson explores the Amococo luminary.

Picture: David Kapernick

Rodney Chester

IT IS more than 75m long, it has taken over a fair slice of the state's performing arts space and it is an experiment with light that is inspired by an experience of love.

Amococo, a giant inflatable tent filled with a dazzling display of colour and light, is set to be the highlight of the biennial Out of the Box festival judging by the swarms of children who took over the Queensland Performing Arts Centre yesterday.

Amococo exhibition manager Shanti Freed said the luminary, which was the creation of the Nottingham-based company Architects of Air, was somewhere between an artwork and an attraction.

"The principles are simple – it's full of air and lit by sunlight. But actually the design is really complex," she said.

Three-year-old Oli Anderson, of Paddington, summed up the magic of the complex structure in one word. "Cool," he said, exploring the inside of the domes on his first visit to Out of the Box.

The week-long event is aimed at under eight-year-olds, but Ms Freed said the experience of space and light inside the striking geometric structure, which dominates the Cultural Forecourt in front of QPAC, was something wondrous for all ages.

The name Amococo comes from the combination of the Latin word for love and Nico, the son of Architects of Air artistic director Alan Parkinson.

The Out of the Box festival is in its 10th year and again has a program of performances, workshops and free events.

The 2008 Out of the Box festival attracted more than 50,000 people.



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WELL AND TRULY OUT OF THE BOX!

Rubber-necking motorists city will be checking out this huge structure
Rinstalled in front of QPAC on the Cultural Forecourt at South Bank.

The mystery structure is a luminary called Amococo, a walk-through installation being inflated daily at South Bank as part of Out of the Box, QPAC's festival for children eight and under at the Cultural Centre South Bank until June 14. The 10th biennial Out of the Box festival will excite and ignite the imagination of children with an exciting program of performances, workshops, exhibitions and free arts events especially designed for children eight years and under.

Tickets can only be purchased on site at the South Bank Cultural Forecourt box office throughout the week for Amococo. Tickets for all festival performances and workshops are available at all other QPAC box office outlets (unless sold out). For full details and bookings go to www.outoftheboxfestival.com.au





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Amazing to the Max

A giant light-filled maze known as an illuminarium – tested by Moorooka's Max Wickham and friends this week – is just one of the treats lined up for Brisbane littlies as Out of the Box unfolds this week.
REPORT: PAGE 5

Picture: Rita Fitzsimon



Think outside the box for children

WENDY HALL

THE colourful and eclectic 10th biennial Out of the Box festival is igniting imaginations at the Cultural Centre, South Bank this week.

The festival was launched on Tuesday and runs until Monday with loads of activities, performances, workshops and free events for children eight and under.

Artistic director Rose Myers said more than 50,000 people were expected to take part in this year's festival.

A highlight is the Amococo luminarium, a stunning installation filled with light and colour from the UK's Architects of the Air, located on the South Bank Cultural Forecourt (admission \$8.50).

Out of the Box extends across the Cultural Centre with workshops while free activities are also on offer at the State Library of Queensland, Queensland Museum and Queensland Art Gallery/GoMA.

Tickets can be purchased on site at QPAC box offices throughout the week.

For more visit www.outoftheboxfestival.com.au



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Lit up: Max Wickham is emerged in the Amococo at the Out of the Box festival.

Sky's the limit for children

Fun is Out Of The Box in this festival for youngsters, writes **Philip Hammond**

IT'S organised bedlam down on South Bank this week.

Big packs of kindy and primary school groups in colourful bibs for easy identification. Parents with their wide-eyed tots. More than 400 blue-shirted volunteers, as many entertainers... and an electric, hectic atmosphere.

We're four days into Australia's one and only Out Of The Box Festival – a glorious mix of arty, fun things slanted to entertain and inspire children eight years old and younger.

There's a great deal happening right through to Queen's Birthday holiday Monday, and people from all over the region and beyond are making the best of it.

On an upper level of QPAC, in the Flight Centre workshop adorned with Tony Rice's fabulous kites, children create colourful drawings on special paper which they'll turn into kites.

At ground level, fluffy chicks peck at grain in a straw-floored coop, as children pick fresh herbs and cook muffins in the Flourpot activity.

Outside, on stage, two energetic Tutti Fruitti ladies in pink bathing attire have children and a big crowd of parents, cheering and clapping at their madcap dry land water ski acrobatics. They perform at 10am daily.

There's so much going on, and this 10th biennial event is tipped to attract more than the 50,000 children

who came last time.

The festival takes over the whole South Bank cultural precinct, from the Flying Fruit Fly Circus's galleon-based *Pirates* production in QPAC's Lyric Theatre, through the Queensland Museum, the Queensland Art Gallery, the Gallery of Modern Art and the State Library.

A major attraction is the creation of UK-based Architects of the Air; the Amococo Luminarium. This amazing walk-through installation of 86 inflatables, full of light effects, dominates South Bank's Cultural Forecourt.

It can take half an hour to enjoy it fully, and entry on site is \$8.50.

Out Of The Box has 15 different free entertainments designed to ignite the creative side of children... and their parents. There are also four interesting workshops, each costing a child \$16.

Children can sit with

Queensland Symphony Orchestra musicians and enjoy new insights into individual instruments in Lemony Snicket's *The Composer is Dead* production (Adult \$22, child, \$18)

And you can let your child become a dramatic actor this weekend, free of charge

In the QPAC Concert Hall foyer, 71 fourth year students from the QUT School of Early Childhood have developed a great experience for children.

Pen Pal: an Outback Postie-themed project, uses the power of drama to stimulate young imaginations.

With its hand-painted Aussie bush backdrops and three settings catering for different age groups, Pen Pal is the result of a semester-long assignment by the students.

"We're using drama to stimulate writing activity. Children go into the story telling, they become part of the process," Lecturer and unit coordinator, Shaleen Prowse says.

"They take a role and develop a character. It's a different story every time. They're not sitting and watching a drama – they're in it."

The way Pen Pal has been designed by the students, each drama is adaptable enough to be a "one-on-one" with student and youngster, with parents encouraged to join in, or it can also accommodate school or kindy groups.